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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 11, 12, 15, 18 and 19 as set forth below, and please cancel claims 3, 13, 14 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

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1. (currently amended) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, comprising:  
a laser ray source for irradiating and emitting a basic wave of laser ray therefrom;

a wavelength converter device for receiving the basic wave of laser ray emitted from said laser ray source and for converting ~~it~~ the laser ray into an ultraviolet laser ray composed of a multiplied high harmonic light of the basic wave of laser ray; and

a container which is hermetically sealed and having an inlet window, upon which the basic wave of laser ray emitted from said laser ray source is incident upon, and an outlet window for emitting the ultraviolet laser ray composed of the multiplied high harmonic light of the basic wave of laser ray, and installing said container including means for discharging residual gas within said container, and means for supplying inert gas which does not chemically react with the laser ray into said container, said container having said wavelength converter device installed therein, wherein said container is filled up with an inert gas therein.

2. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1, wherein said wavelength converter device comprises:

an optic resonator, being located within said container and constructed with plural optical members, for resonating the basic wave of laser ray; and

a non-linear optical element, being located within said container and constructed with plural optical members, for generating the ultraviolet laser ray

composed of the multiplied high harmonic light obtained from the basic wave of laser ray.

3. (canceled) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1, wherein said container is hermetically sealed, and is further provided with means for discharging residual gas within said container and means for supplying the inert gas into said container.

4. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1, wherein on a part of inner wall of said container is provided trap means for fixing contaminants floating within said container thereon.

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5. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1, wherein said container, in which said wavelength converter device is installed, is constructed in dual or triple construction, for defining an aperture between them, to be filled up with the inert gas therein.

6. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1, further comprising an optical detection means for detecting contamination condition within said container.

7. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 6, wherein said optical detection means comprises plural number of photoelectric conversion elements positioned within said container.

8. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 6, further comprising a detection means for detecting an output intensity of the ultraviolet laser ray emitted from said wavelength converter device.

9. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1, wherein said laser ray source comprises a solid-state laser-generating device.

10. (original) An ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 9, wherein said laser ray source comprises a Nd:YAG laser and a wavelength converter for converting the laser ray from said Nd:YAG laser into a laser ray having  $1/2$  wavelength thereof.

11. (currently amended) A defect inspection apparatus for detecting defects in microscopic patterns formed on ~~a test~~ an object to be inspected, with using an ultraviolet laser ray, comprising:

an ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1;

an illumination optical system for irradiating the ultraviolet laser ray emitted from said ultraviolet laser-generating device upon the ~~test~~ object;

an optical system for forming an optical image obtained from said ~~test~~ object, being illuminated by said illumination optical system;

a photoelectric converter for converting the optical image, which is formed by said optical system, into a signal upon receipt thereof; and

a defect detection circuit for detecting the defect on said ~~test~~ object upon basis of the signal obtained from said photoelectric converter.

12. (currently amended) A defect inspection apparatus for detecting defects in microscopic patterns formed on ~~a test~~ an object to be inspected, with using an ultraviolet laser ray, comprising:

~~a plurality of an ultraviolet laser-generating devices, being aligned so that the device which emits an ultraviolet laser rays emitted are on a same axis ray;~~

an illumination optical system for irradiating the ultraviolet laser ~~ray(s)~~ ray emitted from ~~at least one or more of said ultraviolet laser-generating devices~~ device upon the test object through a coherence reduction optical system, a polarized beam splitter and a group of polarizer elements;

an optical system for forming an optical image ~~obtained from of~~ said test object, ~~being which is~~ illuminated by said illumination optical system through the polarized beam splitter and the group of polarizer elements;

a photoelectric converter for converting the optical image, which is formed by said optical system, into a signal upon receipt thereof; and

a defect detection circuit for detecting the defect on said test object upon basis of the signal obtained from said photoelectric converter.

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13. (canceled) A defect inspection apparatus, as defined in the claim 12, wherein at least one of said plurality of ultraviolet laser-generating devices is for a spare.

14. (canceled) A defect inspection apparatus, as defined in the claim 12, wherein said illumination optical system comprises an optical system for combining the ultraviolet laser rays emitted from each of said plurality of ultraviolet laser-generating devices, to illuminate the test object therewith.

15. (currently amended) A defect inspection apparatus, as defined in the claim 12, wherein ~~each of said ultraviolet laser-generating devices~~ device, comprises:

a laser ray source for irradiating and emitting a basic wave of laser ray therefrom;

a wavelength converter device for receiving the basic wave of laser ray emitted from said laser ray source and for converting it into an ultraviolet laser ray composed of a multiplied high harmonic light of the basic wave of laser ray; and

a container having an inlet window, upon which the basic wave of laser ray emitted from said laser ray source is incident upon, and an outlet window for emitting the ultraviolet laser ray composed of the multiplied high harmonic light of the basic wave of laser ray, and installing said wavelength converter device therein, wherein said container is filled up with an inert gas therein.

16. (original) A defect inspection apparatus, as defined in the claim 15, wherein said wavelength converter device of said wavelength converter device, comprises:

a2 an optic resonator, being located within said container and constructed with plural optical members, for resonating the basic wave of laser ray; and

a non-linear optical element, being located within said container and constructed with plural optical members, for generating the ultraviolet laser ray composed of the multiplied high harmonic light obtained from the basic wave of laser ray.

17. (canceled) A defect inspection apparatus, as defined in the claim 12, wherein said illumination optical system comprises a coherence reduction optical system.

18. (currently amended) A method for inspecting defects in microscopic patterns formed on ~~a test object~~ an object to be inspected, with using an ultraviolet laser ray, comprising the following steps:

generating an ultraviolet laser ray by the ultraviolet laser-generating device, as defined in the claim 1;

illuminating the ~~test-object~~ with using the ultraviolet laser ray generated by said generating step;

forming an optical image of the ~~test-object~~ from light obtained in said illumination step of the test object;

converting the optical image obtained in said forming step into a signal upon receipt thereof; and

detecting the defect on said ~~test-object~~ upon basis of the signal obtained in said converting step.

19. (currently amended) A method for inspecting defects in microscopic patterns formed on a ~~test-object~~ an object to be inspected, with using an ultraviolet laser ray, comprising the following steps:

Q7 generating ~~a plurality of ultraviolet laser rays, so as to be aligned with on a same axis, as one~~ an ultraviolet laser ray;

illuminating the ~~test-object~~ with ~~using the one ultraviolet laser ray aligned in ed~~ said generating step through a coherence reduction optical system, a polarized beam splitter and a group of polarizer elements;

forming an optical image of the ~~test-object~~ from light obtained in said ~~illumination-illuminating step of the test-object~~ which is passed through the polarized beam splitter and the group of polarizer elements;

converting the optical image obtained in said forming step into a signal upon receipt thereof; and

detecting the defect on said ~~test-object~~ upon basis of the signal obtained in said converting step.

20. (original) A method for maintaining the ultraviolet laser-generating apparatus as defined in the claim 8, comprising the following steps:

monitoring an output of the output intensity detecting means for comparing it to a certain value;

obtaining an output of said optical detection means for detecting contamination condition within said container of the ultraviolet laser-generating apparatus; and

determining maintenance of the ultraviolet laser-generating apparatus, upon basis of an output obtained by said obtaining step.

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